



**BARCLAYS
LEAGUE**

**SEASON 1988-89
DIVISION 3**



VOL 88/89

OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME No.3



BOLTON

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V**

BRISTOL ROVERS

SATURDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 1988

KICK-OFF 3PM

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Notes from the boss.....

It has been an eventful fortnight since we were last here at Burnden Park enjoying that 4-0 victory over Cardiff City.

I said at the start of the season how we would need plenty of bodies around the place to stand us in good stead over the coming months. Experience tells you there is always an injury or two waiting around the next corner - sometimes a long term problem which seriously affects your planning. We had Jeff Chandler last year and young Peter Bell the year before and now Mark Came.

Nevertheless, we showed our strength and our spirit last year when we knuckled down to the job in hand. We've worked hard for what we have achieved up to now, with the fans playing their part admirably. So it is imperative that we stay together now and make sure that we maintain the best possible spirit - even after losing our skipper and such an inspirational character.

We were absolutely gutted to lose Mark but we knew we had to work very quickly to solve the obvious problem that his injury presented us with. That was why I was so pleased with the help we got from Joe Royle at Oldham who assisted us in setting up the transfer of Glenn Keeley.

It just shows that there are some nice people in football. The arrangements obviously suited Joe and Glenn but things still had to be done very quickly if he was to play for us at Reading.

He is obviously missing match practice but his experience is of great advantage. The same goes for Dean Crombie and Trevor Morgan. Like Glenn they were blowing a bit towards the end at Reading, where we genuinely thought we had successfully done the job we'd set out to do until we conceded that wonder goal 10 minutes from the end.



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PROGRAMME TOKEN
Number 3

Burnden Visitors



BRISTOL ROVERS

Today we welcome the first of the two Bristol clubs, Rovers, who are managed by former England Captain Gerry Francis. Bristol Rovers continue to ground-share at Twerton Park, with non-league Bath City and last season finished a creditable eight in the Third Division. They had notable victories last season against promoted Sunderland (4-0) and Walsall (3-0) and reached the Third Round of the F.A. Cup by disposing of Merthyr Tydfil (6-0) and V.S. Rugby (4-0) before going down to Shrewsbury (1-2).

Mr Francis and assistant Kenny Hibbitt have built up a good squad on a shoe-string budget and last season signed three players from non-league football, powerful striker Devon White from Boston along with goalkeeper Nigel Martyn from St. Blazey and mid-fielder Andy Reece from Willenhall.

The Club is financially stable and the hardworking Board, headed by chairman Denis Dunsford, are looking to make Rovers even more secure. Opening results this season have been mixed with a good opening day win at home to Wigan (3-2) after twice coming from behind but a week later saw them go down (1-4) at Sheffield Utd.

GERRY FRANCIS (Player/Manager) Born Chiswick London. Aged 36, former England International, with 12 caps 1975-76. Previous clubs include QPR, Crystal Palace, Coventry, Exeter (Player/Manager), Cardiff, Swansea, Portsmouth and Wimbledon (Coach). Gerry has made almost 500 league appearances and has been the subject of transfer fees totalling almost £800,000. Joined Rovers as a player in September 1985 before moving to Wimbledon as coach in October 1986. Appointed Rovers manager in June 1987 guiding the club to a very creditable eighth position in his first season.

NIGEL MARTYN (Goalkeeper): Born St. Austell, Cornwall. Aged 22. Joined Rovers in July 1987, from St. Blazey in the Duch league. Won 3 caps for England Under 21 team in June, and is regarded as one of the best keepers in the division. Kept 12 clean sheets in a 13 match spell last season.

IAN ALEXANDER (Full-back): Born Glasgow, aged 25. Ian joined Rovers in July 1986 on his return from a spell with Cypriot club Pezoporikos. Began his career with Rotherham United, but subsequently returned to Scotland to play for Motherwell and Morton. Successfully converted from a winger to a full-back position by Manager Gerry Francis, last season, missing just one league game.

VAUGHAN JONES (Defender): Born Tonrefail South Wales, aged 29. Joined Rovers straight from school and won Welsh youth and Under 21 caps. Released in 1982 and experienced, two seasons at Newport County and six months at Cardiff City before returning to Rovers late in 1984. Rovers team captain. Everpresent last season.

BILLY CLARK (Defender): Born Bournemouth, aged 21. Joined Rovers in January 1988 for £10,000 after 3 months loan from Bournemouth.

GEOFF TWENTYMAN (Defender): Liverpool born, aged 29. Joined Rovers three seasons ago from Preston North End. Spotted by Preston playing for Chorley in the Northern Premier League, approaching a career total of 200 league appearances.

STEVE YATES (Defender): Bristol born, aged 18, former YTS trainee who was captain of Rovers Youth team. Made his league debut in March 1987 against Darlington.

KENNY HIBBITT (Midfielder): Born Bradford aged 36. Former Bradford Park Avenue, Wolves and Coventry City campaigner. Spent nearly all his career in the First Division winning England Under 23 cap in 1971. Won League Cup winners medals with Wolves in 1974 and 1980 plus a Second Division championship medal in 1977. Kenny was appointed Rovers Assistant Manager in July 1987. Hibbitt has made over 550 league appearances and scored almost 100 goals. Regrettably he broke his ankle in February against Sunderland.

SIMON STAPLETON (Midfielder): Oxford born, aged 19. Joined Rovers in July 1988. Simon was previously with Portsmouth where he signed as a YTS and then as a professional at 18, having played several first team friendlies at 17. Can also play as a central defender.

Burnden Visitors

ANDY REECE (Midfield): Shrewsbury born, aged 25, former Walsall apprentice. Drifted into non-league football in the Midlands with Dudley Town, and Willenhall. Andy represented an F.A. XI at non-league level. Joined Rovers in July 1986 making 35 league appearances last season.

IAN HOLLOWAY (Winger): Bristol born, aged 25. Ian returned to Rovers in September 1987 for £10,000 after spells at Wimbledon and Brentford. He enjoyed a successful period in his early Rovers career 1979-1983 before joining Wimbledon for £25,000. He has made 200 league appearances in his career.

PAUL SMITH (Winger): London born, aged 20. Former Arsenal apprentice who joined Rovers in July 1988 from Brentford for whom he made 25 First Team appearances last season.

CHRISTIAN McCLEAN (Striker): Colchester born, aged 25. Joined Rovers in March 1988. Former Colchester United apprentice, his previous clubs were Clacton and Zeeburgia (Belgium).

PHILIP PURNELL (Winger): Bristol born, aged 23. Enjoyed his first season as a full-time professional last season missing just 4 games. Joined Rovers from Mangotsfield United in 1985 initially as a part-time player.

DEVON WHITE (Striker): Nottingham born, aged 24. Devon had spells with Arnold, Lincoln City and Boston before joining Rovers in August 1987. A strong, powerful leader of the attack his presence in the opponents penalty resulted in 18 goals last season.

GARY PENRICE (Striker): Bristol born, aged 24, Gary signed from Mangotsfield United. Turned professional in Autumn of 1984 and has made over 150 first team appearances. An everpresent last season he was also Rovers top scorer with 24 goals in league and cup games. Voted player of the year.

DAVID MEHEW (Striker): London born, 20 year old, joined Rovers in summer 1985 after being released by Leeds United. Scored 10 goals in 20 appearances making him the club's top scorer in 1986/87, and netted 8 goals in 18 games last season after breaking into the team in February, after loan spells with Bath City and Trowbridge.



BRISTOL ROVERS

Top Row-left to right: Geoff Twentyman, Andy Reece, Steve Yates, Ian Weston, Billy Clark, Devon White, Nigel Martyn, Jeff Meacham, Christian McClean, Richard Dryden, Simon Stapleton, Ian Alexander.
 Middle Row: Roy Dolling (Physio), Vaughan Jones, Gary Penrice, Phil Purnell, Kenny Hibbitt, Gerry Francis (Manager), Des Bulpin (Coach), Paul Smith, Ian Holloway, David Mehew, Ray Kendall (Kit Manager)
 Front Row: Lee Jacobs, Neil Reeves, Marcus Browning, Paul Harrison, Neil James.

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MATCH REPORT



FOCUS ON DIVISION 3 September 10th

With only three games completed and a long, hard season ahead the scene in Division 3 looks as though the eventual outcome will be tight. No team can still boast a 100% record and all competitors have got off the mark but the next nine months will require consistency. Swansea, Chester City and Northampton are the early pacemakers and the latter scored the best win in the league at strongly fancied Notts. County last week.

The first of the Lancashire 'derby's' was staged at Preston where Blackpool were the visitors; on this occasion the home side were victors by the only goal of the game, despite 'Pool manager Sam Ellis recently indicating that he has formed his strongest squad to date. Wigan traveled to Brentford to share the spoils at one goal each and Latics' keeper Phil Hughes performed heroics including a penalty stop. Bury and Port Vale finished scoreless and Bolton's long trek to Reading earned a valuable point thanks to John Thomas' 59th minute opener but we were unlucky not to return with all three points.

Today's visitors entertained Aldershot at Twerton Park and were forced to pull back from two down. An initial Andy Reece own goal put Aldershot ahead after 36 minutes and before Rovers could blink the visitors went two up. A second half rally however saw Devon White level the scores two minutes from time.

CLOSE UP ON 1 AND 2

Over 41,000 spectators packed into Villa Park to see First Division newcomers take on Champions, Liverpool but a McNally first half opener was canceled out by a Ray Houghton second half goal. Millwall, playing for the first time in the top flight, will be pleased with their 3-0 away win at Charlton. England's mid-week scorer against Denmark, Neil Webb, put Notts. Forest in front at Everton but sub Adrian Heath put Everton level in a 1-1 scoreline.

A Brian Robson winner for Man. Utd. was just enough to secure the points against newly promoted Middlesbrough. Early leaders in Division One are Southampton and Norwich who both scored home wins over Luton and Q.P.R. respectively.

In Division Two, Watford appear to mean business for a quick return to the top flight and are now the only team throughout the Barclays League with a 100% record. Ex-Wanderer, Neil McNab slotted home a penalty for Man. City at Leeds for a 1-1 scoreline. Neighbours Oldham put four past Birmingham at Boundary Park and Blackburn carried out a smash and grab at Stoke to keep in touch with the leaders.





BEHIND THE SCENES

WIZARD OF DRIBBLE AT BURNDEN

The Executive Club was a scene of nostalgia last Saturday when Sir Stanley Matthews made a surprise visit to Burnden. The occasion was arranged by Mr. Ed Thornley, a former Boltonian now living in Canada and a friend of Nat Lofthouse.

Ed had arranged for a 1947 Town Team reunion but other celebrities were invited to the private Buffet/Dance including Jackie Mudie who partnered Sir Stan in the 1953 Final. Former Wander, Peter Reid was also among the guests.

Matthews left Burnden to return to his native Stoke en-route for a trip to South Africa.

* * * * *

Another forthcoming attraction due to be staged in the Executive Club is the launch of Nat's Testimonial Year. Admission to the launch is by invitation only and another wizard of dribble, Tom Finney, has been given the honour of the opening ceremony. Once underway, many other events are in the pipeline and will be staged at regular intervals throughout the testimonial year.

* * * * *

SPORTSMAN'S DINNER

Guests at the forthcoming Sportsman's Dinner on Monday, October 3rd are sure to be in for an enjoyable evening being entertained by Wilf McGuinness and comedian Mike King. Wilf delivers an effervescent speech, portrayed in the 100% fashion of his playing days and Mike is an exceptionally good comic.

* * * * *

GO FOR GOLD

Lottery Manager, Mr Terry Holland used good foresight by introducing a 'Go for Gold' lottery ticket to coincide with the Seoul Olympics. Besides the usual big cash prizes there are beautiful Jewellery Sets to be won and these come in attractive presentation packs.

* * * * *

AWAY WE GO

GOING TO ALDERSHOT

The Travel Club are taking bookings for the game at Aldershot on Saturday, 24th September. The executive coach leaves Burnden at 10 a.m. and the price is £10.00.

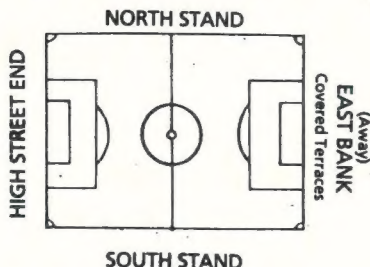
Prices for the fixture at Aldershot are as follows:

Standing	£3.50 & £2.00
Seating	£4.50 & £3.00
Programme	70p

Travelling Supporters' Information

ROUTES: From East: Take Aldershot signs from Guildford (A323) into High Street, ground on right. From West & South: Take Farnborough signs from Farnham (A325), 2nd exit at Roundabout into Wellington Avenue (A323) after $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, 2nd exit at Roundabout into High Street, ground on left. From London: exit M3 (junction 4) then A325 to Aldershot, after 5 miles 1st exit at Roundabout into Wellington Avenue, then as West & South.

Ground Capacity: 12,000
Seating Capacity: 1,885



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Disabled Toilets: None
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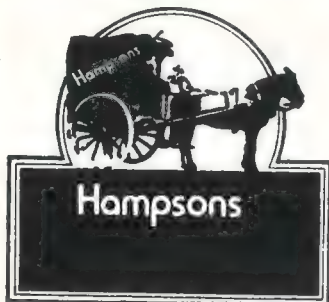
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DAYS GONE BY

5 YEARS AGO: The Wanderers equaled their best ever goal tally in a football league game by putting eight past Walsall at Burnden. Tony Caldwell became the first player to hit five in a league game for the club and, but for a last minute goal by Ally Robertson for Walsall, the clubs record league win would have been equaled.

Bolton quickly came back to earth with a league cup exit at Fourth Division Chester, going out on penalties, after the homeside had pulled back a three goal first leg deficit.

An 80th minute goal from Chris Cowling gave Scunthorpe victory over the Wanderers at the Old Show Ground.

10 YEARS AGO: An 85th minute winner from Frank Stapleton sent Bolton to defeat at Arsenal. The Wanderers had defended effectively with Jim McDonagh producing a number of spectacular saves before the goal, which had a suspicion of offside, but despite protests the referee allowed it to stand.

Full back and former captain John Ritson left the club to join near neighbours Bury in a £25,000 deal.

15 YEARS AGO: A John Byrom goal gave the Wanderers the lead at home to Orient but a disputed second half penalty, converted by Gerry Queen, gave the Londoners a share of the spoils. Bolton went joint top of the Second Division after defeating bottom club Crystal Palace at Burnden. Stuart Lee opened the scoring and he did the ground work to set up the second for John Byrom.

100 YEARS AGO: For the second football league game the Wanderers entertained Burnley at Pikes Lane. Once again Bolton found themselves three goals up, all coming inside 25 minutes, only to end up losing 4-3 with Burnley's winner being scored fifteen minutes from time. The kick off had to be delayed due to Burnley's late arrival and when they did appear they had the same coloured jerseys as Wanderers.

Bolton found success with a 1-0 win over Astley Bridge at Astley Meadows. Unfortunately the game was cut short due to darkness.

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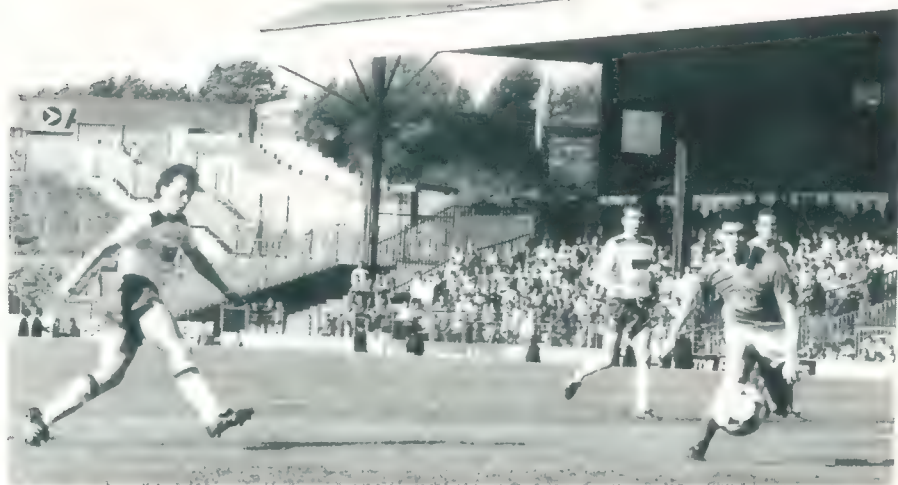
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BOLTON V CARDIFF: JOHN THOMAS'S FIRST GOAL

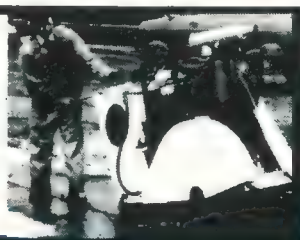


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1988-89 will see The Football Trust increase its commitment by investing further sums in closed circuit television, transport facilities for supporters and projects to bring Football League clubs closer to their local community

WARNING

At the beginning of the season more than 110 League grounds in England, Wales and Scotland will be equipped with CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION which has been funded by The Football Trust

It is there to increase crowd safety and to help the police. Recording facilities enable film and photographs to be taken of disorder, which may subsequently be used in a court of law

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION

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Improvements	770,561

In addition to its safety programme, FGIT has also allocated £1.5 million to build or improve family and disabled facilities at League grounds during 1988



RESERVE AND YOUTH NEWS

Mansfield Town Res. 1-
2 Bolton Wanderers Res.
31st August, 1988

The reserves made a good start to the Central League campaign thanks to a last gasp goal from Kevin Still.

Mansfield had much the better of the first half in which the Wanderers only chance fell to Trevor Morgan, who saw Town 'keeper Beasley, pull off a spectacular reflex save.

It is however a mix up in the Wanderers defence that allowed Mansfield to take the lead in the 25th minute. Gareth Gray was beaten to the ball on the edge of the area and it was pulled back for Stringfellow to shoot home despite the attempts of Paul Hughes to clear off the line.

Bolton got their game together during the second half and it took only 75 seconds to level matters.

Dean Crombie played a neat through ball that found both Ian Callaghan and Nicky Brookman in acres of space and with a clear run on goal. Callaghan raced clear and beat the oncoming keeper with a shot from the edge of the area.

The Wanderers build up play improved as the game went on but they relied on a number of long range shots in an attempt to win the points with both Callaghan and Dave McKearney going close.

At the other end Gareth Gray kept Bolton in it when he got down to a shot from Stringfellow who had got clear of the defence.

Ninety minutes had been played when

Kevin Still, who had worked well in the midfield, received the ball and from twenty yards saw his powerful shot fly into the roof of the net for a victory that at half time had looked beyond the Wanderers.

TEAM: Gray, Hughes, O'Brien, Fisher, Jackson, Crombie, Brookman, Callaghan, Morgan, McGarry, Still. Subs-Brown, McKearney (both used). FIXTURES

Wed.	Aug. 31	Mansfield Town	A 2-1
Wed.	Sept. 7	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H
Tue.	Sept. 13	Rotherham United	A
Wed.	Sept. 21	DARLINGTON	H
Tue.	Sept. 27	Middlesbrough	A
Wed.	Oct. 5	NOTTS. COUNTY	H
Wed.	Oct. 12	HULL CITY	H
Wed.	Oct. 19	Port Vale	A
Wed.	Nov. 2	DONCASTER ROV.	H
Wed.	Nov. 9	Wigan Athletic	A
Wed.	Nov. 16	BLACKPOOL	H
Tue.	Nov. 22	Grimsby Town	A
Wed.	Nov. 30	YORK CITY	H
Tue.	Dec. 6	Bradford City	A
Wed.	Dec. 14	Scunthorpe United	A
Wed.	Dec. 21	PRESTON N.E.	H
Tue.	Jan. 3	Oldham Athletic	A
Wed.	Jan. 11	MANSFIELD TOWN	H
Wed.	Jan. 18	York City	A
Wed.	Jan. 25	STOKE CITY	H
Wed.	Feb. 1	MIDDLESBROUGH	H
Tue.	Feb. 7	Notts. County	A
Wed.	Feb. 15	PORT VALE	H
Wed.	Feb. 22	Hull City	A
Wed.	Mar. 1	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H
Wed.	Mar. 8	Donaster Rovers	A
Wed.	Mar. 15	Darlington	A
Wed.	Mar. 22	SCUNTHORPE UTD.	H
Wed.	Mar. 29	ROTHERHAM UTD.	H
Wed.	Apr. 5	Preston N.E.	A
Wed.	Apr. 12	BRADFORD CITY	H
Tue.	Apr. 18	Blackpool	A
Wed.	Apr. 26	GRIMSBY TOWN	H
Wed.	May 3	Stoke City	A



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SAFE HANS

OLYMPIC GAMES — SPECIAL

Well, here we are at Saturday, 17th September, 1988 and it's Olympic Games time in Seoul, South Korea. Unfortunately from my point after finishing just behind Seb Coe in the trials I won't be there to take my place. Quite a few of the lads could have been there if they could have got a couple of weeks off, Robbie Savage would have probably gone all the way to the Gold medal in the Boxing competition and John Thomas would surely have won a medal in the Shooting. It's hard to name any of the lads to have a chance in the Diving competition but Harry McNally the Chester manager was reported as saying "David Felgate" after Gary Bennett's wild lunge at Dave in the Cup tie forced him to have attention to his leg. Phil Brown would stand a good chance in the Sprint

events judging by the way he covers the length of the field, and not because the lads think he looks like Carl Lewis. Mark Came and Winstanley fancied their chances at the Rowing after last years events at Salford Quay's whilst Trevor Morgan could have done well in the Cycling events as he makes his attempt to gain full fitness.

From a football point of view, the Olympic Competition is valued by television companies as small fry, as we only usually see the winning goals of the Final. But I don't know why because as from today BBC 1, BBC2 and ITV, Channel 4 will be showing non-stop action of the Games—everything from hand ball to hand-stands. But don't worry, you viewers of 'Prisoner-Cell Block 'H' ITV have promised to keep up their schedule dosage of this much loved Aussie Soap, so at least you'll be able to get a couple of hours sleep this next week.





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SIMON MARLAND

RECOLLECTIONS

The Wanderers will today be looking to end Bristol Rovers undefeated run of three games on their visits to Burnden.

It has been something of a turn around when one considers that after Rovers made their first league visit in February 1972, which ended 0-0, their next seven games at Burnden all ended in defeat.

In January 1975 Bolton, after failing to score in the previous 270 minutes of football, blasted Rovers 5-1 and this still stands as the biggest winning margin in games between the clubs.

A couple of goals from Tony Caldwell and a penalty from Jeff Chandler gave the Wanderers a 3-0 win over Rovers in February 1984 which was their last defeat here.

The tables were turned on the opening day of the 1984/85 season when a goal from Archie Stevens gave the Rovers their first taste of league success at Burnden. This was followed a season later, with a 2-0 victory and on their last visit in January 1987, Bristol fought back to draw 2-2 after being two down with only ten minutes remaining.

The Wanderers have only had limited success in Bristol with a 1-0 win, thanks to an Alan Waldron goal in November 1977, and a 2-1

win in January 1985, that ended a miserable run of fifteen consecutive away defeats in the league. The remaining nine visits have produced only three points in the Wanderers favour, the last game in August 1986, which was Rovers first league match at Bath, was decided by a Trevor Morgan penalty who was at the time in a Bristol shirt.

Cup football shows one win a piece in the FA Cup, Bolton winning in Bristol in 1985, whilst Rovers, then in the Third Division caused something of a surprise by defeating Bolton, then in the Second Division by 2-1 at Burnden in 1969.

Our overall league record against Bristol Rovers is as follows:

	PL	W	D	L	F	A
Home	11	7	2	2	21	7
Away	11	2	3	6	11	16
Total	22	9	5	8	32	23



Wayne Foster taking on Tim Parkin during Wanderers 3-0 win in February 1984.

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NATS DIARY

A REVIEW OF NATS INTERNATIONAL CAREER

14th NOVEMBER, 1951 **No. 3**
ENGLAND 2 v IRELAND 0

England defeated Ireland 2-0 at Villa Park and this, taken in conjunction with Wales' surprise win over Scotland at Hampden, left the British championship still in the balance.

The fierce tackling and quick recovery of the Irish team was perhaps a good examination of England for their coming battle with Austria.

Yet, taking the England exhibition as a whole, it must be said that they scraped through the examination by only the barest of margins possible. Neither forward line could really keep the attack flowing against quick covering defences and England's problem is in finding two inside forwards of really outstanding craft.

Finney, for him, had a quiet match and it was left largely to Lofthouse, with Sewell often alongside, to provide the main thrust, though Medley too had his moments.

Only twice in the first half did England really test the Irish. The first was a beautiful long cross by Phillips, in midfield, to Finney that opened the Irish defence, and it was only a great save by Uprichard at the feet of Lofthouse that saved a desperate situation. The other move was a gem, that produced the only goal of the opening half, a minute before the interval.

Lofthouse was twice involved in the build up before the ball reached Finney

on the wing. His cross came over for Lofthouse to head home past a beaten and bewildered Irish defence.

This promised better things in the second half, but, unfortunately they did not come, and it can be remembered for only three things:

McMorran struck the angle of the England goalpost with a terrific shot from 25 yards, a firecracker that exploded beneath an unsuspecting photographer on the touchline and finally, England's second goal seven minutes from the end.

The second goal proved to be something of a gratuitous present when Uprichard allowed a high centre from Sewell to slip from his grasp at the feet of the eager Lofthouse who made no mistake.

TEAMS:

England: Merrick (Birmingham), Ramsey (Spurs), Smith (Arsenal), Wright (Wolves)(Capt.), Barrass (Bolton), Dickinson (Portsmouth), Finney (Preston), Sewell (Sheff.Wed.), Lofthouse (Bolton), Phillips (Portsmouth), Medley (Spurs).

Ireland: Uprichard (Swindon), Graham (Doncaster), McMichael (Newcastle), Dickinson (Chelsea), Vernon (West Brom.)(Capt.), McCourt (Man.City), Bingham (Sunderland), Smyth (Stoke), McMorran (Barnsley), McIlroy (Burnley), McKenna (Huddersfield).

WHERE ARE THEY NOW



RALPH GUBBINS

It was as recent as last Saturday's Sporting Buff that reporter, Gordon Sharrock had referred to the present day team as being one of the cheapest assembled since the victorious 1958 F.A. Cup winning team, when all 11 Wanderers heroes cost a mere £10 apiece. Ralph Gubbins didn't play that day, but he was a member of the squad and played an important part in the Wanderers' appearance at Wembley.

On returning from forces duty in Malaya, Ralph was recruited to the Burnden fold as a raw lad and joined up with an established team who were to unknowingly to make the first of two Wembley Final appearances in the '50s.

Ralph recalled, "It was a time when the 1958 Cup winning team was just coming through. I came to the Club as an inside-left initially, but after regular left winger Bobby Langton went, his position was given to Ray Parry and when things didn't go particularly well it was decided to try me there and that was where I spent most of my time." The fact that Ralph was adaptable to middle or wing play worked in the Club's favour, for in the years ahead he was occasionally called upon to take the centre forward role whenever Nat was injured. It was on one particular occasion that Ralph stole the newspaper headlines.

That was in 1958 at Maine Road for an F.A. Cup Semi Final 'derby' against Blackburn Rovers, who were also developing a team to be reckoned with at the time. Ralph recalled, "I had to deputize for Nat at centre forward and the attendance that day was 74,000. We went one down after 30 minutes to a Peter Dobing goal and then it turned out to be a dream game. I scored two goals in two minutes."

Ralph Gubbins had written his name into the history books and Bolton had reached the Final of the most coveted competition in the world and the opposition was Manchester United. Come Final Day, Ralph was made



12th man and sat out the whole of the game on the bench below the Royal Box. "There were no substitutes then", Ralph commented. In the early '60s Ralph Gubbins left Burnden Park for a two year spell at Hull City and from Boothferry Park to Tranmere Rovers for a further 3 1/2 years. His playing career eventually finished at Wigan, but not before he had helped them win the Cheshire League Championship in their non-league days.

His career ended in 1964 after some 800 appearances at various levels and it was then that Ralph turned to the newspaper industry for his future. He joined Bolton Evening News where he was put in charge of the Walkden Branch. After serving a three year apprenticeship learning the trade he joined the Daily Mirror and has given 21 years valuable service. As Area Representative, Ralph is nowadays responsible for the Sunday Mirror and Sunday People around the North West, dealing with wholesale and retail distribution.

Ralph still keeps in touch with some ex-teams irrespective of them going different ways. He regularly sees Ray Parry at his town centre newsagency and Tommy Banks, who has recently moved from his Farnworth newsagency. During leisure time Ralph partners Dennis Stevens for a round of golf. Because of business commitments Ralph rarely watches football, "it has to be mid-week games", he concluded

Personality Profile.

ROBBIE SAVAGE

This weeks Profile features the man who scored the vital goal that secured promotion at Wrexham last May, Robbie Savage. Robbie has become a somewhat 'cult' figure with the crowd since signing for the club twelve months ago from Bradford, his enthusiasm for the game, together with his Scouse humour has been great for team spirit.

Robbie was on Liverpool's books as a Schoolboy and duly signed for the club as an apprentice and then full-pro at 18. He made his debut for the club on a tour of Bangkok and scored two goals, one a volley with his right foot. He enjoyed his five years with Liverpool and states, "I received the best coaching in the world at Liverpool and I owe a great deal to the staff there". At Anfield then was a certain Phil Neal but Robbie was soon to be on the move initially on six months loan to Wrexham but then to First Division Stoke City.

At Wrexham, Robbie ended up leading goal-scorer and also Player of the Year, but the then Wrexham manager Bobby Roberts couldn't afford him so when Richie Barker, the Stoke manager, came in for him he went there. At Stoke he played alongside the likes of Sammy McIlroy, Micky Thomas and Mark Chamberlain but couldn't prevent relegation. His next move was to the South Coast and Bournemouth where he spent three enjoyable years until he moved back North to Second Division Bradford. Trevor Cherry was manager at that stage but lasted only two weeks into Robbie's stay before getting the sack. Bradford were struggling at this stage in the Second Division and home games were played at Ordsal Stadium the home of Bradford Northern Rugby League



Club, while Valley Parade was being re-built after the fire.

Robbie's stay at Bradford was just 11 games before Phil Neal paid 35,000 for his services. A goal on his debut was a promising start and the winner at Wrexham was "The highlight of my career, so far" states Robbie.

This season he thinks we will "hold our own" with many of the teams being on a "level par". When asked for his views on his fellow pro's, Ian Stevens and Julian Darby were two youngsters he thought could go all the way. A certain "young Trevor Morgan" will go far he stated tongue in cheek and a Harry Henderson alias Dave Felgate was also highly rated.

It's obvious Robbie would die for football, he loves the game and certainly would play in any position just to get a game. Last season he had a spell at left-back and didn't look out of position, hopefully this afternoon he will be returning to midfield after his leg injury and you can bet he will be giving the other team a hard time.

LEAGUE SCENE

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	Pts	P	W	D	L	Pts	
Swansea.....	3	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	5	2
Chester.....	3	1	1	0	3	1	1	0	0	2	1
Northmptn.....	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	2	1
Sheff Utd.....	3	1	0	0	4	1	1	0	1	4	3
Gillingham.....	3	1	0	1	4	4	1	0	0	2	0
Wolves.....	3	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	4	3
Fulham.....	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	4
Bury.....	3	1	1	0	3	1	0	1	0	1	1
Mansfield.....	3	1	1	0	4	2	0	1	0	0	0
Bolton.....	3	1	0	0	4	0	0	1	1	1	3
Bristol City.....	3	1	0	0	4	0	0	1	1	0	2
Port Vale.....	3	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	3	1
Brentford.....	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1
Notts Cnty.....	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	4
Bristol R.....	3	1	1	0	5	4	0	0	1	1	4
Southend.....	3	1	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	0	1
Cardiff.....	3	1	0	1	4	2	0	0	1	0	4
Huddersfld.....	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	4
Preston.....	3	1	0	1	2	3	0	0	1	0	2
Chesterfld.....	3	1	0	1	2	4	0	0	1	0	4
Wigan.....	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	4
Blackpool.....	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	2
Aldershot.....	3	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	3	4
Reading.....	3	0	1	1	2	4	0	0	1	1	2

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SEASON'S FIXTURES

F.A. ATT:



AUGUST

27	Southend Utd.	A	02	4,075	Falgate
30	Litt. Cup 1, Chester	H	10	3,535	Falgate

SEPTEMBER

3	Cardiff City	H	4-0	4,831	Falgate
6	Litt. Cup 1, Chester	A	1-3	3,784	Falgate
10	Reading	A	1-1	4,660	Falgate
17	Bristol Rovers	H			
20	Fulham (Tues)	H			
24	Aldershot	A			

OCTOBER

1	Sheffield	H			
4	Swansea City (Tues)	A			
8	Blackpool	H			
15	Port Vale	A			
22	Wolverhampton W.	H			
25	Wigan Ath. (Tues)	H			
29	Chesterfield	A			

NOVEMBER

5	Bristol City	A			
8	Huddersfield T. (Tues)	A			
12	Bury	H			
19	(F.A. Cup 1st Round)				
26	Northampton T.	H			

DECEMBER

3	Brentford	A			
10	(F.A. Cup 2nd Round)				
17	Chester City	H			
26	Preston N.E. (Mon)	A			
31	Notts County	A			

JANUARY 1989

2	Mansfield T. (Mon)	H			
7	Gillingham (F.A.3)	H			
14	Cardiff City	A			
21	Reading	H			
28	Bristol Rovers (F.A.4)	A			

FEBRUARY

4	Sheffield Utd.	A			
11	Swansea City	H			
18	Blackpool (F.A.5)	A			
25	Port Vale	H			
28	Wigan Ath. (Tues.)	H			

MARCH

4	Wolverhampton W.	A			
11	Bristol City	H			
14	Chesterfield (Tues)	A			
19	Southend (F.A.6)	H			
25	Mansfield T.	A			
27	Preston N.E. (Mon)	H			

APRIL

1	Chester City	A			
4	Gillingham (Tues)	A			
8	Notts County	H			
15	Fulham (F.A.SF)	A			
18	Northampton (Tues)	A			
22	Aldershot	H			
29	Bury	A			

MAY

1	Huddersfield (Mon)	H			
6	Brentford	H			
20	F.A. Cup Final				

CO op Normid



Brown Brown	Cowdrill Cowdrill	Darby Savage	Came Came	Winstanley Winstanley	Brookman Henshaw	Thompson Thompson	Stevens* Thomas	Elliott Elliott	Savage Darby(1)	Henshaw* Crombie	Crombie Storer
Brown Brown Brown	Cowdrill Cowdrill(1) Cowdrill	Brookman Brookman Henshaw	Came Came Keeley	Winstanley Winstanley Winstanley	Henshaw(1) Henshaw Crombie	Thompson Thompson Thompson	Thomas(1) Thomas Thomas(1)	Elliott Elliott Morgan	Darby(2) Darby Darby	Crombie Crombie Elliott	Stevens Stevens Neal



TODAY'S REFEREE Gerald Ashby (Worcester)

Commenced refereeing in the Worcester & District Football League in 1972 and progressed through the West Midlands Regional League, through to the Football League List of officials in 1982. Important matches officiated in include Portugal v Sweden 1986. He is married with one daughter, and his hobbies include Do-it-yourself and Gardening.

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5. GLEN KEELEY
6. MARK WINSTANLEY
7. DEAN CROMBIE
8. STEVE THOMPSON
9. JOHN THOMAS
10. TREVOR MORGAN
11. JULIAN DARBY
12. STEVE ELLIOT
14. PHIL NEAL

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LINESMEN: S.D. BELL & J.S. COWLEY

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